



Sunday Worship at Home

27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

WE PREPARE

Let us praise the God of life,  
whose mercies are new every morning.  
Let us wait for the salvation of our God,  
who turns sorrow into joy  
and sets our spirits dancing.

**HYMN**    **Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,**  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,  
as Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.  
*Great is Thy faithfulness,  
great is Thy faithfulness;  
morning by morning  
new mercies I see;  
all I have needed  
Thy hand hath provided –  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
*Great is Thy faithfulness . . .*

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Great is Thy faithfulness . . .*

Living God, we come from our busy, crowded lives  
to reach out to you  
and touch the source of grace and life  
that we find in you.

God, who made our wonderful world,  
with all its colour and growth  
its fruits and flourishing:  
we give thanks for your steadfast love,  
and sing praises to your name.



God who surprises us  
with tiny things that make a difference  
and by the hidden process of growth within us:  
we give thanks for your steadfast love,  
and sing praises to your name.

God who renews your creation,  
giving us a new vision of your world,  
and the confidence of faith:  
we give thanks for your steadfast love,  
and sing praises to your name.

O God, whose ways often seem mysterious and hidden  
forgive us when we fail to see you at work.

When we feel discouraged,  
as if nothing we do makes any difference,  
enable us to reach out to you.  
Lord have mercy.

When we fail to listen to you,  
uncertain of what you are saying to us,  
enable us to reach out to you  
Christ have mercy.

When we are discontented and restless,  
weighed down and anxious  
enable us to reach out to you.  
Lord have mercy.

When we seek to do things in our own way,  
may we remember that all power and strength is yours  
and enable us to reach out to you  
in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

May the God of love and power  
forgive us from our sins  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

And, we make our prayers in the name of the one who taught us  
saying...  
Our Father, who art in heaven...

### In introduction...

As we continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus not letting the grass grow under his feet. Well into his earthly ministry, with news of his word and work spreading far and wide, crowds of people want to spend time with him.



With the benefit of the Gospels, we know that Jesus is God's Son; then he was seen as an itinerant preacher, with a rag-bag dozen friends. Travelling around the area, telling parables, speaking about God in new ways he turned the people's thinking upside down.

And there were miracles. Even just according to Mark, who didn't record them all, Jesus has healed a man with an evil spirit, Simon's Mother-in-Law, loads of sick and demon filled people, a man with leprosy, another who was paralysed, and, and, and.... Last week he even calmed a violent storm on the lake by telling it to, 'be quiet!'

Today, two more healings, two very different people seeking help, in very different ways. One a man, a public figure who approaches Jesus with a public request for his daughter; the other a woman, who creeps up behind Jesus, seeking help for herself. It is this encounter we will focus on today, sandwiched between the two parts of the man's story....

## Mark 5 21-end

<sup>21</sup> Jesus went back across to the other side of the lake. There at the lakeside a large crowd gathered around him. <sup>22</sup> Jairus, an official of the local synagogue, arrived, and when he saw Jesus, he threw himself down at his feet <sup>23</sup> and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is very sick. Please come and place your hands on her, so that she will get well and live!"

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus started off with him. So many people were going along with Jesus that they were crowding him from every side.

<sup>25</sup> There was a woman who had suffered terribly from severe bleeding for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> even though she had been treated by many doctors. She had spent all her money, but instead of getting better she got worse all the time. <sup>27</sup> She had heard about Jesus, so she came in the crowd behind him, <sup>28</sup> saying to herself, "If I just touch his clothes, I will get well."

<sup>29</sup> She touched his cloak, and her bleeding stopped at once; and she had the feeling inside herself that she was healed of her trouble. <sup>30</sup> At once Jesus knew that power had gone out of him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

<sup>31</sup> His disciples answered, "You see how the people are crowding you; why do you ask who touched you?"

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> The woman realized what had happened to her, so she came, trembling with fear, knelt at his feet, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to her, "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble."

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was saying this, some messengers came from Jairus' house and told him, "Your daughter has died. Why bother the Teacher any longer?"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus paid no attention to what they said, but told him, "Don't be afraid, only believe." <sup>37</sup> Then he did not let anyone else go on with him except Peter and James and his brother John. <sup>38</sup> They arrived at Jairus' house, where Jesus saw the confusion and heard all the loud crying and wailing. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, "Why all this confusion? Why are you crying? The child is not dead—she is only sleeping!"

<sup>40</sup> They started making fun of him, so he put them all out, took the child's father and mother and his three disciples, and went into the room where the child was lying. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha, koum,*" which means, "Little girl, I tell you to get up!"

<sup>42</sup> She got up at once and started walking around. (She was twelve years old.) When this happened, they were completely amazed. <sup>43</sup> But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone, and he said, "Give her something to eat."

## HYMN

### **Be still, for the presence of the Lord,**

the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before Him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in Him no sin is found –  
we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.



Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight –  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace –  
no work too hard for Him.  
In faith receive from Him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

### Reflection...

In the little we are told about her we realise much. Her illness has left her weak, frail, listless; feeling hopeless, discouraged and alone. It's a common enough condition but treatment is difficult and expensive. Affected physically and emotionally, she is also impacted spiritually, as under the Law of Moses, she is 'unclean'; not just keeping away from others, she may not even enter the temple to worship God.

She shouldn't be in this crowd at all.

Yet she has faith; she sees Jesus as approachable and kind. While the Law says, 'Stay away', Jesus says, 'Come to me'. She does, and makes her way towards Jesus with just one thought in her mind, 'if I can just touch his clothes, I will get well',

Deep in the crowd, the other people pressing on every side, she stretches out her hand and in an almost unbelievable moment, touches Jesus' robe. Immediately she is healed of her trouble; changed, transformed, renewed. Yet, at once, her joy seems dashed, as Jesus stops, turns and asks, despite the heaving crowd, who has touched his clothes.

The people stop too, falling silent they strain to see what happens as Jesus looks around, until the trembling, lone woman falls in the dust at his feet and says what she has done and why. She had planned on disappearing anonymously back into the crowd, but she has to confess her act; to Jesus and all the people there. Of course, Jesus knows what has happened and why, but his question is for the benefit of the crowd, and all who ever read or hear of this woman. He wants to complete this miracle by speaking assurance and love to her hurting heart, his response is a beautiful term of endearment, 'My daughter, your faith has made you whole.'

We hear no more of this woman and never know her name; the whole incident lasts only minutes; but what a life-changer. What a sign of Jesus' strength and power.

Amazing, isn't it? All those people bumping into Jesus; yet none of them receiving a miracle; but then, none of them asking for, or expecting, one.

Are we like that woman? Suffering, needing restoration; yet feeling unworthy, helpless? Do we approach the Lord, who says, 'Come to me', seeking that healing and restoration, drawing upon his strength, expecting his compassion, open to his life-changing power? Or are we like those in the crowd, going along with things, accepting them as they are, perhaps keen to follow and listen, but not anticipating anything to change?

As the woman grasped Jesus' cloak in faith, confident in his healing power, so when we pray in faith, our Lord will hear us; no one is outside of his love.



When we come to him as we are, we can be assured that he will respond to us. The difficult bit here, of course, can be that God's response will be in his own way and in his own time, which might not match ours; he calls us nonetheless, to

trust he sees the bigger picture, longing for the best for each and every one of us.

Whatever our situation, Jesus calls us to approach him in confidence, to reach out to him in expectation and then receive from him in joy.

#### HYMN

**Just as I am, without one plea,**  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears, within, without  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O lamb of God, I come

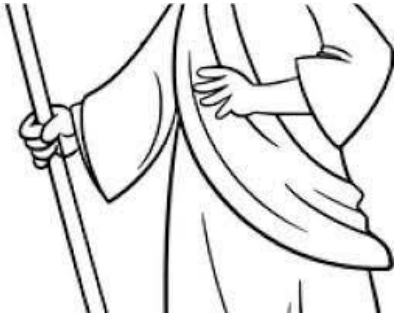
We declare our faith in God...

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## WE PRAY TOGETHER



*During our prayers, you may wish, in your mind's eye to imagine reaching out to Jesus' robe, touching the fabric; remembering that he is always here for us; always within reach.*

Loving Lord,

we offer our heartfelt thanks that you are here with us this day; that you are always with us, always close, always longing for us to reach out and touch you.

So grant us the courage and strength to make that move as we pray to you.

Loving Lord,

we try to touch Jesus' robe for ourselves. The things going on in our lives against which we feel powerless.

In a moment of quiet, we lift to you those things that cause us to feel weak, tired, worried, set apart...

Loving Lord,

we seek to touch Jesus' robe in the name of our families and friends, some of whom have concerns they have shared, others only you know. We remember those who are struggling in body, mind, spirit, and the bereaved.

In a moment of quiet, we lift these people and their issues to you...

Loving Lord,

we stretch out to touch Jesus' robe for your Church. We pray for our special brothers and sisters on the road to or with you; in our local churches, throughout the county, country and across the world.

In a moment of quiet we lift to you all who seek to follow your way, thinking especially of those for whom calling upon your name is dangerous, even life-threatening...

Loving Lord,

we reach out to touch Jesus' robe for your world. A world where so many weep; where many are lost in the crowds of suffering, injustice, poverty, hunger, disease; where many live with daily acts of war or terrorism.

In a moment of quiet, we lift your world and all your people to you...

Loving Lord,

our prayers at this time are only a reaching out to touch Jesus' robe, a tiny action in a great crowd of need; yet we know that the power is not in what we do, but in and through you.

So, take our prayers we ask, along with the prayers of millions of others, to bring about your purposes of love, healing and hope for all.

In Jesus name we ask, Amen.

## OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

### HYMN

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.

If you would like someone to pray with you, please do not hesitate to make contact with Angela, Jeffrey, Sue or Claire. We will be pleased to walk alongside you and together seek to reach for Jesus' robe.

Loving Lord,  
you have welcomed us as your people.  
We have heard your words of love  
and been touched by your grace.  
May we go on our way  
reaching beyond the limits of our compassion  
to share your hospitality with friend and stranger,

And, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, ever more. Amen.

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*This service draws on material from rootsontheweb.com  
New Patterns for Worship, Church House Publishing  
Hymns from missionpraise.com  
CCLI 999402  
Service prepared by Claire*